

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims as follows:

B1  
1 (Currently Amended). A modem for a communications network, comprising:  
a transceiver;  
a first interface coupled to said transceiver and ~~adapted to~~ configured to couple to a first communications terminal; and  
a second interface coupled to said transceiver, wherein said second interface is configured to and adapted to couple said transceiver to a network node via a first master communication loop and further configured to couple said transceiver to said network node via a second shared communications loop, said second shared communications loop adapted to is configured to serve a second communications terminal.

2 (Original). The modem as specified in Claim 1 wherein said second communications terminal is physically located remote from said first communications terminal.

3 (Original). The modem as specified in Claim 1 wherein said transceiver exchanges communication information in a format compatible with ADSL standards.

4 (Currently Amended). The modem as specified in Claim 1 wherein said first communications terminal exchanges communication information over both said first master communication loop and said second ~~shared~~ communication loop via said second interface in a format compatible with ADSL standards.

5 (Currently Amended). The modem as specified in Claim 4 wherein said second communications terminal is also adapted to exchange communication information over said second ~~shared~~ communication loop in a format compatible with ADSL standards, wherein said first communications terminal is adapted to exchange communication information over said

second ~~shared~~ communication loop while said second communication terminal exchanges communication information over said second ~~shared~~ communication loop.

6 (Currently Amended). The modem as specified in Claim 1 wherein said transceiver is adapted to simultaneously communicate information over both said first master communication loop and said second ~~shared~~ communication loop with a remote communication device located at a central office (CO).

7 (Currently Amended). The modem as specified in Claim 1 wherein said transceiver is adapted to communicate information over said second ~~shared~~ communication loop using a technique chosen from the group consisting of: time division, frequency division, and code division.

8 (Currently Amended). The modem as specified in Claim 1 wherein said transceiver is adapted to share said second ~~shared~~ communications loop for receiving downstream communication information for said first communication terminal.

9 (Currently Amended). The modem as specified in Claim 1 wherein said transceiver is adapted to share said second ~~shared~~ communications loop for both upstream and downstream communication information for said first communication terminal.

10 (Currently Amended). The modem as specified in Claim 1 wherein both said first master communication loop and said second ~~shared~~ communication loop each comprise a twisted pair of conductors.

11 (Previously Amended). The modem as specified in Claim 3 wherein said second interface is also adapted to communicate voice information over said first master communication loop and has a splitter separating said ADSL communication information from said voice information.

12 (Currently Amended). A communication network, comprising:  
a first modem adapted to serve a first communications terminal;

a second modem adapted to serve a second communications terminal; and  
a network node coupled to said first modem via a first master communication loop and to  
said second modem via a second ~~shared~~ communication loop, wherein said first  
modem is also coupled to said network node via said second ~~shared~~  
communication loop.

13 (Original). The communication network as specified in Claim 12 wherein said first  
modem exchanges communication information compatible with ADSL standards.

14 (Currently Amended). The communication network as specified in Claim 13  
wherein said first modem is adapted configured to communicate information simultaneously over  
both said first master communication loop and said second ~~shared~~ communication loop as an  
integrated communication having a higher bandwidth than that available over said first master  
communication loop.


15 (Currently Amended). The communication network as specified in Claim 14  
wherein said first modem is adapted configured to also communicate voice communications over  
said first master communication loop, said first modem having a splitter separating said ADSL  
communication information from said voice communications.

16 (Currently Amended). The communication network as specified in Claim 12  
wherein said first modem is adapted to receive downstream communications over said ~~shared~~  
second communication loop.

17 (Currently Amended). The communication network as specified in Claim 16  
wherein said first modem is adapted to exchange both upstream and downstream  
communications over said ~~shared~~ second communication loop.

18 (Currently Amended). The communication network as specified in Claim 12  
wherein both said master loop and said second communication ~~shared~~ loop each comprises a  
twisted pair of conductors.

19 (Previously Amended). A method of increasing communication bandwidth between a first modem coupled to a first communication terminal and a network node, the first modem being coupled to the network node via a first communication loop, the method comprising:

 communicating information between the first communication terminal and the network node simultaneously over the first communication loop and at least one other communication loop, wherein the at least one other communication loop is configured to couple the network node to at least one other communication terminal.

20 (Original). The method as specified in Claim 19 wherein said information is compatible with ADSL standards.

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